Message Text

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PARIS FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EINV, ECOSOC, UN

SUBJECT: DRAFT TEXT ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS FOR INCLUSION IN OECD MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE

REF: PARIS 18280

1. MISSION CAN RESPOND TO QUERIES ON U.S. DRAFT TEXT BY NOTING THAT RECENT CONSULTATIONS OF INTERESTED OECD DELS SHOWED BROAD SUPPORT FOR MAIN ELEMENTS OF AN AGREEMENT, I.E., CRIMINALIZATION, EXTRADITION, AND JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE. WE ALSO APPEARED VERY CLOSE TO AGREEMENT ON A TEXT FOR RECORD-KEEPING OF CERTAIN AGENTS' FEES TO BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS. ON THE BASIS OF THAT ACCORD U.S. INDICATED ITS READINESS TO WITHDRAW PROPOSALS FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND/OR REPORTING, AND TO CONFIDENTIAL

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TO FLEXIBLE REGARDING FOREIGN SUBSIDIARIES. WE ALSO MADE EXCELLENT PROGRESS ON A NUMBER OF OTHER ISSUES INCLUDING THE SCOPE OF THE OFFENSE, INCLUSION OF A TERRITORIAL LINK, AND THE DEFINITION OF PUBLIC OFFICIAL. ALTHOUGH A NUMBER OF TECHNICAL DRAFTING ISSUES REMAIN, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE ARE ANY "BASIC" ISSUES ON WHICH OECD DELS CANNOT AGREE. IF THERE ARE ONE OR TWO GOVERNMENTS

THAT STILL HAVE MORE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS, WE HOPE THEY CAN ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES IN THE OECD MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE

WITH THE BROAD CONSENSUS THAT IS EMERGING. THE USG IS PREPARED TO SHOW FLEXIBILITY TO FACILITATE A CONSENSUS.

- 2. FYI. OUR MAIN INTEREST IS TO OBTAIN CLEAR EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT IN MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE FOR AN ECOSOC RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS.IF,REQUIRED WE HAVE CONSIDERABLE FLEXIBILITY ON LANGUAGE. FOR EXAMPLE, WE COULD ACCEPT, IN LIEU OF "BASIC ELEMENTS," "IMPORTANT ELEMENTS" OR "THE OUTLINE OF" AN AGREEMENT.
- 3. WE HAVE PREPARED LANGUAGE FOR INCLUSION IN FULL TEXT OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO BE DISTRIBUTED AT MINISTERIAL. END FYI. VANCE

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